



ISSN 1325-2534

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORKER

President's Report

Many exciting things have happened since my last President's report. One of the most exciting has been the launching of the Kimberley-Pilbara subcommittee of the Branch. On Saturday 23rd September 2000, Laine Pianta and Luke Hays, co-convenors opened the inaugural meeting of the subcommittee in Broome at the offices of Family and Children's Services who graciously made their premises available for the meeting. In attendance were participants from Kununurra, travelling over 1,000 kilometres to attend, Broome, Port Hedland and Karratha - both of which involved a 9 hour drive! Laine said that, for her, the meeting was a "dream come true". The dream came true because of the hard work and effort she and Luke had put in to organising the day.

For me, the issues I want to bring to your attention is the energy, enthusiasm and passion of all the social workers who attended on the day. Just to name a few of the ideas that flew around the room on the day, the group made plans for peer support groups to occur in various local areas, and plans for a future regional component of the Branch State Conference which I can envision happening in the not too distant future if the group continues to work at the level they did on that Saturday. The subcommittee also made plans to develop a training register, a news and information mail out for the region, and hopes to win the funding for a member from the subcommittee to attend next year's state conference through the Branch's annual sponsorship of a remote practitioner's attendance of the conference.

I went away from the day feeling so energised and so proud to be a social worker! The camaraderie and the convassing of professional and ethical issues that impact on one's practice in a remote area was amazing. I only wish all of you could have been there on the day, too. I have no doubt that the Branch will be hearing lots more from this group.

I would urge any Branch members who will be travelling to the Pilbara or the Kimberly as a part of their work to get in touch with the subcommittee in advance and let them know you are coming. Perhaps you can contribute to subcommittee meetings, events or training!

I want to bring a couple of other things to your attention. First of all, you would have received the materials on this year's *Social Work Awards for Excellence*. I urge you to consider nominating

a colleague who you believe demonstrates excellence in their social work practice, be it in traditional social work like direct practice or in management, policy, research or education. The WA Branch with its nearly 800 members has a wealth of excellence to pick from. Let's be proud of our profession and our colleagues and nominate social workers who fit the bill of excellence in their practice.

The final issue I want to call to your attention is the upcoming National Board meeting to be held in mid November in Canberra. There are very significant decisions to be taken. The Board meeting will start with strategic planning designed to set the directions of the Association for the near future. Given that the Association at a National level and at State/Branch levels are interdependent, decisions taken at the strategic planning and the National Board meeting will significantly influence Branch activities and priorities for the immediate future.

On Friday, November 10th at 2:00 p.m. at UWA, the Branch will host its twice yearly Branch/Schools of Social Work meeting to get input from Branch members and Schools as to their priorities and issues for the National Board meeting. I urge you to attend and let me know as National Director, issues you would like me to raise at the Board meeting. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Mike Clare at the University of WA on 9380.2998.

I also want to bring to your attention a decision taken at the June Board meeting - that is to fully fund national programs. The implications of this is that there is likely to be changes in the way Branches are funded via the capitation formula as well as Branch access to surplus monies raised by the Branches themselves.

If you have a position on these I would suggest that you make your opinions known, both at the joint meeting but also to other National Board members and members of the National Executive.

BARBARA MEDDIN

An online version of this newsletter can be found at
<http://westausaasw.highway1.com.au/>

SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE EASTERN GOLDFIELDS AND SURROUNDING AREAS

A support group is planned to commence in Kalgoorlie for interested people. Please contact Dawn Mielens on 9022 0714 during office hours for details.

It is envisioned that the group meet every 4-6 weeks, both socially and as a profession to give each other support, access information and any other reason that may be suggested. It has been suggested that we hold the first meeting on Friday 24th November at 6.00 pm. Ring for details.

DAWN MIELENS

NEW SUBCOMMITTEE

The Committee of Management of the WA Branch has approved the formation of the Aged Care Subcommittee

The establishing of this subcommittee recognises the growing number of aged persons in the community and the increasingly heavy demand on systems of aged care services. It is a commitment by our profession ensuring a significant contribution will be made to the nature, development and quality of such systems and to provision of services.

The subcommittee will be guided by Terms of Reference allowing broad consideration of issues through areas of:

- professional practice
- advocacy
- social policy
- education.

Meetings will be held monthly. It is important that a wide range of service providers involved with aged care be represented, for example, hospitals, community based care, non government services, residential care, rural, indigenous and ethnic services.

Members interested in participating and contributing to the work of the subcommittee are warmly invited to contact the interim co convenors or secretary as listed below:

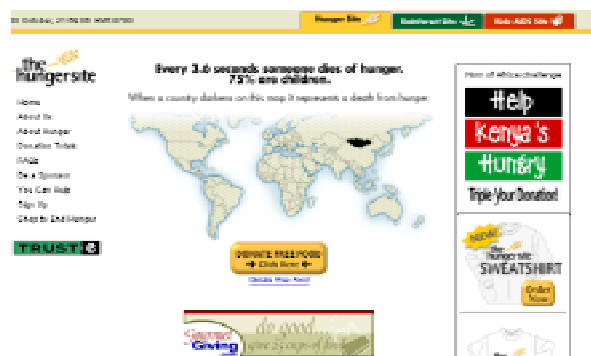
Phyllis Costello 9448 4773 (H), 9448 4025 (Fax)
Ivy Vukovich 9272 5983 (H) 9334 3782 (W)
Roma Lewi: email rlewi@smartchat.net.au

NEW MEMBERS

The WA Branch welcomes the following new members:

- Deanne Balcombe
- Natasha-Jane Bargeus (Student Associate)
- Heather Osborne (Peel Health Services)
- Anne Pielage (Centrelink)

NET WATCH - THE HUNGER SITE



<http://www.thehungersite.com>

This month we are going to visit the Hunger Site <<http://www.thehungersite.com>>. This is a most interesting site and members will find much there to interest them, as the site is the world's first 'click-to-donate' site where more than 88 million visitors have donated more than 10,000 metric tons of free food to help feed the hungry. They have done this by visiting the Hunger Site daily and simply clicking a button. The donations of staple food, paid for by site's sponsors, are distributed to the world's hunger hot-spots by the United Nations World Food Program.

The Hunger Site has been recognized in 2000 as an international favorite, winning The People's Voice Award in the Activism category at the fourth annual Webby Awards, the 'Oscars of the Internet.' The site itself is sponsored by GreaterGood.com <<http://www.greatergood.com>>, which is based in Seattle, Washington.

GreaterGood.com provides consumers with the ability to make a difference in the world through their everyday Web-based activities - at no extra cost to them. In addition to managing The Hunger Site and The Rainforest Site, GreaterGood.com also operates the leading cause related shopping portal - where up to 15% of all purchases automatically benefit the charity, K-12 school or university scholarship fund of the shopper's choice. (Further information about GreaterGood.com are available from the web site.)

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the frontline United Nations organization fighting to eradicate world hunger - whether it is the hunger that suddenly afflicts people fleeing ethnic conflict in Rwanda or Bosnia or the chronic hunger that affects the hungry poor in countries such as Bangladesh or India. WFP became operational in 1963 and is now the world's largest international food aid organization.

Last year WFP helped feed 86 million people including more than half of the world's refugees and internally displaced people. WFP has emergency and development projects in 82 countries worldwide and a staff of more than 5,000.

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THE NEW ENHANCED PRIMARY CARE MEDICARE ITEMS

Care plans, case conferences and health assessments were introduced as new Medicare items on 1 November 1999. Many health professionals already organise care plans and case conferences for their clients. The introduction of the new Medicare items means that health professionals are now able to invite GPs to contribute to these plans. Likewise, GPs may contact health professionals to contribute to care plans and case conferences, which they are coordinating. These items mean that clients benefit from a more coordinated approach to their care. Medicare rebate can be claimed for the cost of the following services provided by their GP.

Health Assessments

An annual health assessment is an opportunity for GPs to identify a person's risk factors and health problems. These are available to people aged 75 years and over (55 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people).

Care Plans

Care plans are designed for people of any age with chronic medical conditions and multiple care needs. A

health or community care provider can invite a GP to contribute to a multidisciplinary care plan being coordinated by them for a person with a chronic medical condition and multiple care needs. The service provided by the GP can be rebated through Medicare. GPs may make contact with the relevant health professionals in person, by telephone or in writing when developing plans under the new MBS items.

Case Conferencing

Case conferencing aims to ensure that people of any age with chronic medical conditions and multiple care needs receive organised and comprehensive care. These Medicare items require at least two other health or community care professionals to participate with a GP in a case conference. GPs can both organise and manage a case conference and also participate in a case conference organised by another care professional at the invitation of the other care professional.

For more information contact the Medicare Inquiry line on 13 2011 or contact the Department of Health and Aged Care in WA on 9346 5447. The Department's website is www.health.gov.au/hsdd/primcare/enhancpr.htm

WANSLEA FAMILY SERVICES

Want to make a difference to families and children?

Opportunities exist for:

Social Workers Level 4/5 (SACS) East Region Team

Two positions exist for provision of social work services within Wanslea's East Team to work within our Family Services division which includes Children's Services, Family Services, and Placement Services Programmes.

Qualifications and Experience

- Eligibility for membership of the A.A.S.W.
- Experience in working with families and children in crisis or with child protection issues.
- Sound knowledge and understanding of child development and parenting training.
- Experience in community development project work.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Demonstrated ability to supervise staff and volunteers.
- Sound administrative skills including computer literacy.
- Current drivers' licence and own vehicle.

Suitably qualified and experienced applicants should obtain an information package consisting of job description, selection criteria and application requirements by phoning reception.

Phone (08) 9245 2441 Fax (08) 9245 2481, PO Box 211, Scarborough WA 6922, Email: wanslea1@iinet.net.au
Closing date for applications is 27th November 2000 at 5.00 pm.

Press Reviews

June 15, *Newsweek (USA)* "It turns out that nowadays there is indeed such a thing as a free lunch, and it can help feed the hungry of the world. If you want a glimpse at the future of philanthropy, try clicking on thehungersite.com. The site, a year old this week and the winner of a Webby (the Oscars of cool Web sites), lets you donate a cup and a half of rice or grain a day just by clicking on a button that says Donate Free Food. That's it. No tiresome credit-card information to fill out. Easy for kids. You give the advertisers your eyeballs for a few seconds and they give money to the United Nations World Food Program - for much less than it would cost the advertisers to get your attention otherwise

... So far, 65 million visitors have clicked in 17 million pounds of food, and the big advertisers are not even in yet. (That dwarfs the visits to the United Nations' own Web sites.) Only 10 percent of the money sent by advertisers goes for United Nations overhead, a respectable figure. To keep visitors from clicking over and over, you can only donate free once a day. The same applies to therainforestsite.com where each click results in the Nature Conservancy setting aside 13.5 square feet of rain forest. ... "This probably is the wave of the future for charity," says Abby Spring of the United Nations World Food Program. "We'll look back at thehungersite.com and think it was an antique."

Oct. 15, *The Washington Post (USA)* "Think of all the 1999 time you spend clicking aimlessly or fruitlessly around the Web. At The Hunger Site, one click actually accomplishes something: It sends a serving of food to a starving person, at no cost to you. Corporate sponsors provide the food in exchange for free advertisement and links. Since its Jun. 1 start-up, the site has sent enough money to the United Nations' World Food Program to purchase more than 4 million servings of dietary staples; a WFP official calls it 'an extraordinary testimony to the power of the Internet.' The privacy-protected site is run without profit by John Breen, an Indiana software programmer who initially wanted to support Third World education but decided hunger was the priority. As his world map arrestingly illustrates, starvation kills 24,000 people daily, most of them children."

Hunger Facts

About 24,000 people die every day from hunger or hunger-related causes. This is down from 35,000 ten years ago, and 41,000 twenty years ago. Three-fourths of the deaths are children under the age of five.

Today 10% of children in developing countries die before the age of five. This is down from 28% fifty years ago.

Famine and wars cause just 10% of hunger deaths, although these tend to be the ones you hear about most often. The majority of hunger deaths are caused by chronic malnutrition. Families

simply cannot get enough to eat. This in turn is caused by extreme poverty.

Besides death, chronic malnutrition also causes impaired vision, listlessness, stunted growth, and greatly increased susceptibility to disease. Severely malnourished people are unable to function at even a basic level.

It is estimated that some 800 million people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition, about 100 times as many as those who actually die from it each year.

Often it takes just a few simple resources for impoverished people to be able to grow enough food to become self-sufficient. These resources include quality seeds, appropriate tools, and access to water. Small improvements in farming techniques and food storage methods are also helpful.

Many hunger experts believe that ultimately the best way to reduce hunger is through education. Educated people are best able to break out of the cycle of poverty that causes hunger.

Quotations about hunger

The day that hunger is eradicated from the earth there will be the greatest spiritual explosion the world has ever known. Humanity cannot imagine the joy that will burst into the world.

Federico Garcia Lorca

The first freedom of man, I contend, is the freedom to eat.

Eleanor Roosevelt

The decision to feed the world is the real decision.

Adrienne Rich

If we just worry about the big picture, we are powerless. So my secret is to start right away doing whatever little work I can do. I try to give joy to one person in the morning, and remove the suffering of one person in the afternoon.... That is the secret. Start right now.

Sister ChSn Khsng

Decide, mother, who goes without. Is it Rama, the strongest, or Baca, the weakest, who may not need it much longer, or perhaps Sita? Who may be expendable? Decide, mother; kill a part of yourself you resolve the dilemma.

-Appadura (poem from India)

We the peoples of the United Nations determined ... to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

The Overview edition of *The West Australian Social Worker* is published bi monthly by the WA Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers (ACN 008 576 010). Services, products, opinions and enclosures are not considered as necessarily endorsed by the AASW nor represent its policy. Contributions are accepted on the understanding they may be subject to editorial revision.